

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: MASS, TU

SUBJECT: EFFECT OF AID CUTOFF ON U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS

1. FOLLOWING REMARKS REGARDING DAMAGE MILITARY AID CUTOFF
WILL DO TO TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS ARE TYPICAL OF THOSE
WE HAVE BEEN GETTING FROM RESPONSIBLE TURKISH OFFICIALS
KNOWN TO BE SINCERE FRIENDS OF U.S.

2. DURING RECENT DISCUSSION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND
FOREIGN MILITARY CASH SALES WITH MSA COUNSELOR (REPORTED
SEPARATELY) AMBASSADOR YAVUZALP, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, MFA, STATED HE WISHED TO
SHARE HIS PURELY PERSONAL VIEWS ON THE IMPACT OF A CUTOFF
OF U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE. YAVUZALP SAID THAT A CUTOFF
OF U.S. ASSISTANCE, EVEN OF SHORT DURATION, WOULD BRING
ABOUT FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY
WHICH HE "DREADED TO SEE". HE COMPARED U.S. CUTOFF
TO ERROR SOVIETS HAD MADE IN THEIR POLICY TOWARD TURKEY
IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORLD WAR II WHICH SOVIETS LATER STRONGLY
REGRETTED. WHEN MSA COUNSELOR CITED CURRENT U.S.
ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS TO PROVIDE TURKEY'S MILITARY NEEDS,
YAVUZALP REPLIED THAT ACTUAL EFFECT OF AID CUTOFF ON TURKEY'S
MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT WAS IRRELEVANT SINCE POLICY CHANGES
WOULD BE DICTATED BY STRONG SURGE OF ANTI-AMERICANISM IN
TURKISH GENERAL PUBLIC. MSA COUNSELOR ASKED IF FORESEEN
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ANTI-AMERICAN ACTIVITY WOULD BE LIKE THAT OCCURRING IN LATE

60'S AND EARLY 70'S. YAVUZALP SAID THOSE EVENTS STAGED BY SMALL MINORITY. ANTI-AMERICANISM HE ENVISAGED AFTER AID CUTOFF WOULD BE MUCH BROADER.

3. U.S. CONGRESS, YAVUZALP SAID, SEEMED OBLIVIOUS TO CERTAIN BASIC COMMON INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. MSA COUNSELOR REVIEWED EFFORTS OF CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AND ADMINISTRATION TO PROTECT THOSE INTERESTS AND NOTED PROGRESS TOWARD CYPRUS SETTLEMENT WOULD BE GREAT HELP TO THIS END. YAVUZALP RESPONDED THAT IT "GRAVE MISTAKE" TO CONNECT CYPRUS, WHICH TOUCHES ON STRONG TURKISH SENSITIVITIES, WITH BROADER ISSUE OF U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS. MSA COUNSELOR NOTED THAT CONNECTION HAD BEEN MADE BY CONGRESS AND THAT WE MUST DEAL WITH THAT REALITY. YAVUZALP REMARKED THAT WAS PROBLEM FOR U.S. ADMINISTRATION LEADERSHIP.

4. YAVUZALP AGREED IN PRINCIPLE WITH MSA COUNSELOR'S POINT THAT BASIC SECURITY INTERESTS UNDERLYING TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY MIGHT BE OBSCURED BUT NOT CHANGED BY CUTOFF, BUT SAID IT WOULD BE THE DIFFICULT TASK OF GOT TO EXPLAIN THIS FACT TO TURKISH PUBLIC. HE INDICATED THAT HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED THAT A FUNDAMENTAL POLICY SHIFT COULD NOT BE AVERTED BY GOT IF MILITARY AID WERE CUT.

5. THIS CONVERSATION REPORTED IN FULL BY MEMCON
POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.
MACOMBER

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